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REMARKS

Claims 1, 5-11 and 36-47 were pending. Claims 1, 5-11 and 36-38 stand allowed.

Claims 45-47 have been rejected. Claims 39-43 are objected to. Claims 39 and 45-47 have been amended. New claim 48 has been added.

Preliminarily, Applicants note that claim 44 was not listed as rejected, allowed, or objected to. As claim 44 depends from allowed claim 5, Applicants proceed under the assumption that claim 44 is also allowed. In the event Applicants' assumption is incorrect, clarification is requested from the Office.

Support for the amendments to the claims and for new claim 48 can be found, *inter alia*, at page 2, lines 18-21; page 6, lines 7-15 and 23-27; page 11, lines 23-27; page 14, lines 10-15; page 19, lines 16-20; page 22, lines 19-24; and page 23, lines 3-7 and 13-16 of the specification.

No new matter has been added

Upon entry of this paper, claims 1, 5-11 and 36-48 will be pending.

Information Disclosure Statements

Upon reviewing the Information Disclosure Statements (IDS) filed to date, Applicants note that Document Number AH (WO 00/55320), filed in the IDS mailed August 2, 2001, was not initialed by the Examiner. Applicants note that all other references set forth in the August 2, 2001 IDS were initialed. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner initial Form 1449, indicating that the reference was considered, and return same to the Applicants. A copy of the partially initialed Form 1449 is attached hereto for the Examiner's convenience. In the event the Examiner is not able to locate a copy of Document AH, Applicants will forward a copy to the Office upon request.

Claim Objections

Claims 39, 45 and 46 were objected to for formal reasons. Claim 39 was amended to add remove an extraneous "." at the end of the claim.

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The Office alleged that "claims 45 and 46 are not further limiting from claims 5, 36 and 39." Applicants respectfully disagree as claims 45 and 46 do further limit claims 5, 36 and 39. The Office is reminded that the patent laws and regulations do not prohibit the presence of claims of varying, even overlapping scope.

Although claims 45 and 46 do overlap with claims 5, 36 and 39 to a limited extent, claims 45 and 46 are narrower in scope than claims 5, 36 and 39. For example, each of claims 5, 36 and 39 recite some variability in the reference sequence. Claim 5, for example, recites a polynucleotide encoding a polyneptide with five or fewer conservative amino acid substitutions relative to SEO ID NO:2 and given fragments thereof. Claim 36 recites that the polynucleotide is at least 95% identical to a polynucleotide encoding SEQ ID NO:2 and given fragments thereof. Claim 39 recites a polynucleotide encoding a polyneptide at least 95% identical to SEO ID NO:2 or a full complement thereof. Claim 45 is narrower in scope than any of claims 5, 36 or 39 as it identifies an amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO:10) which must be encoded by the polynucleotide; there is no sequence variability permitted with respect to the portion of the polynucleotide encoding SEQ ID NO:10. Five or fewer conservative amino acid substitutions or 5% sequence variability in the polynucleotide sequence or amino acid sequence, as appropriate, permit sequence variability, including in the region encoding SEQ ID NO:10. Similarly, claim 46 is narrower in scope than any of claims 5, 36 or 39 as it identifies an amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO:3) which must be encoded by the polynucleotide; there is no sequence variability permitted with respect to the portion of the polynucleotide encoding SEQ ID NO:10. Five or fewer conservative amino acid substitutions or 5% sequence variability in the polynucleotide sequence or amino acid sequence, as appropriate, permit sequence variability, including in the region encoding SEO ID NO:3.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections to claims 39, 45 and 46.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

Written Description

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Claim 47 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly containing new matter. Specifically the Office alleges that there is no support for the limitations "46-1173 of SEQ ID NO:1" and "unchanged with respect to SEQ ID NO:1" Applicants do not agree.

Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to page 22, lines 22-23 which recites the region comprising nucleotides 46-1173 of SEQ ID NO:1 Applicant have revised claim 47 to remove the phrase "unchanged with respect to SEQ ID NO:1" in order to further clarify the claim language.

In view of the foregoing Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the written description rejection.

CONCLUSION

The foregoing represents a *bona fide* attempt to advance the present application to allowance. Applicants respectfully assert that all claims are in condition for allowance, which action is hereby requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at (302) 778-8458 if such would expedite prosecution.

No fee is believed due. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Gwilym J.Ö. Attwell Reg. No. 45,449

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Minneapolis, MN 55440-1022 (302) 652-5070 telephone

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